

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the complex election requirement imposed in the Official Action mailed January 30, 2006, Applicants initially elect claims 1-6 that, according to the Office Action, are directed to an optical switch.

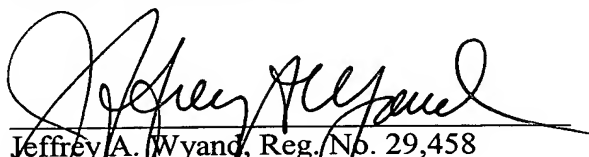
The Examiner also imposed a species election requirement which, according to Applicants' analysis, only applies if claims 1-6 are elected and could not apply if claims 7-4 had been elected. If this analysis is incorrect, then a new Office Action with a further explanation is requested.

The Office Action mailed January 30, 2006 did not make clear which group or groups of claims might be included in or excluded from the species election requirement. The language appearing in association with the designated Species A appears only in claim 1. That alleged species is elected. Claim 1 is generic as to claims 3 and 4 so that claims 1, 3, and 4 should be examined pursuant to the elections. It is understood that Species B applies to claim 6, the only claim including the language of that alleged species.

In the Office Action mailed October 4, 2005, the Examiner stated that claim 2 was merely objected to and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Since the claim 1 now pending incorporates the limitation of former claim 2, that claim 1 should be, according to the Examiner's concession, allowed. Claim 1 is clearly generic to claims 3 and 4, so that even if those claims might be considered by the Examiner to lie outside the scope of the Species A, those claims would have to be rejoined to the prosecution pursuant to 37 CFR 1.141. Since claim 1 is allowable, so are claims 3 and 4.

Prompt and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: February 22, 2007